

**System and Method for Multiple Virtual
Private Network Authentication Schemes**

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is related to the following co-
5 pending U.S. Patent Application filed on the same day as
the present application and each assigned to the IBM
Corporation: ^{U.S. Serial Number 09/864,110 entitled} "System and Method for Selectively Confirming
Digital Certificates in a Virtual Private Network," (Docket
No. AUS9-2000-0924-US1), by Fiveash, Genty, and Wilson; and
10 ^{U.S. Serial Number 09/864,112 entitled} "System and Method for Dynamically Determining CRL
Locations and Access Methods," (Docket No. AUS9-2001-0425-
US1), by Genty, Venkataraman, and Wilson.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Technical Field

15 The present invention relates in general to a method
and system for securing networks. Still more particularly,
the present invention relates to an improved system and
method for providing multiple authentication schemes to
authenticate computer systems that are members of a virtual
20 private network.

2. Description of the Related Art

In today's modern environment, many businesses and
organizations deal with global markets and have global
logistic concerns. Many organizations have facilities
25 disbursed across the country or even around the world.
Despite their global presence, these organizations need a